



January 21, 2010

# Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force

Camille Ferguson

*Representative of Transportation Providers that Receive Federal Funding Available to Indian Tribes*

# Administrative Order 243

Governor's

Coordinated Transportation Task Force

- Study and make recommendations on how the state can coordinate to provide cost-effective, community based transportation services to persons with special needs.



# Persons with Special Needs

- Persons with disabilities
  - physical and developmental disabilities, mental illness, traumatic brain injury, dementia and/or substance abuse problems
- Senior citizens
- Preschool children participating in a head start program
- Public school students
- Low-income individuals, including those receiving public assistance or Medicaid
- Those without access to existing, workable transportation opportunities

# Persons with Special Needs

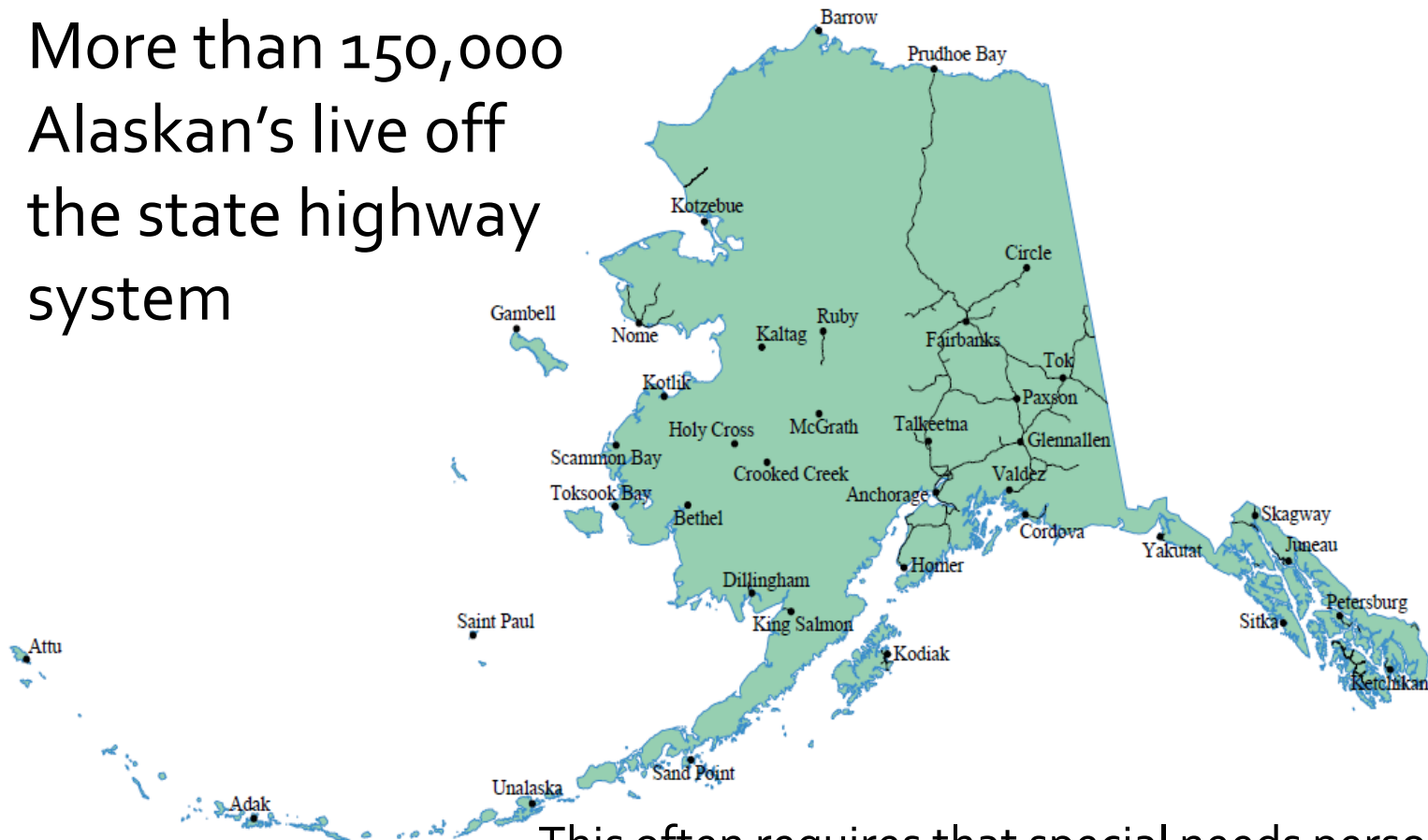
**More than 25 percent\*  
of Alaska's total population is estimated to be comprised  
of persons with special needs**

	Alaska census 2008	Poverty Status – adults	Poverty Status – children under 18	Seniors over 60	Civilians with a disability	Veterans with a disability	Homes on public assistance
Total	686,293	37,370	19,854	77,608	78,893	17,223	44,907

*\*Statistics to identify the exact numbers of this population are not possible. These numbers may reflect duplicate counts, but they are also probably not comprehensive.*

# Persons with Special Needs

- More than 150,000 Alaskan's live off the state highway system



This often requires that special needs persons must travel long distances to receive care and services.

# Alaska's transportation providers

Transportation providers in Alaska are the link:

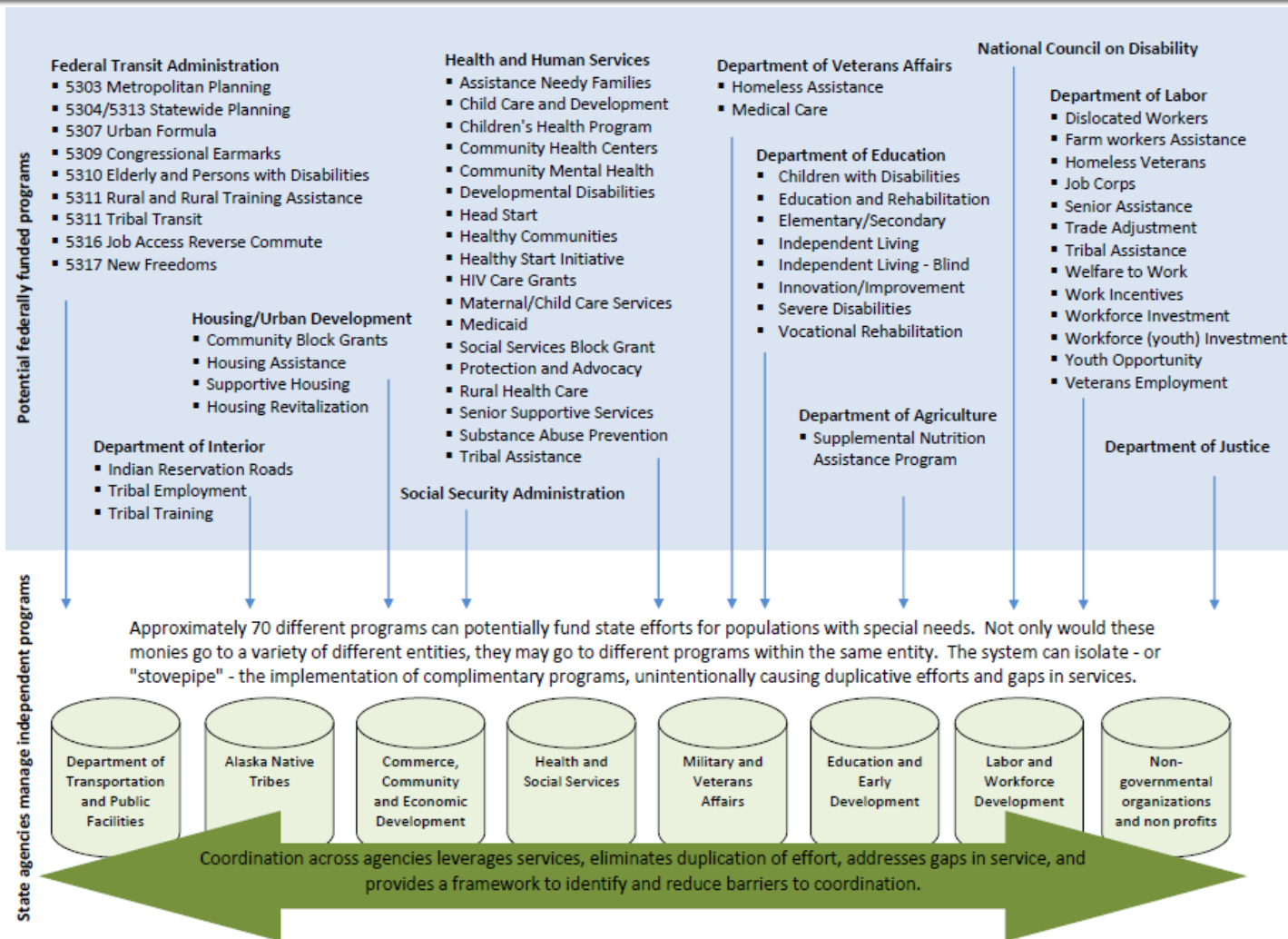
- to jobs,
  - to medical appointments,
  - to school events, and
  - To social events ...
- all of which increase quality of life.



# Who provides human service transportation?

- Providers - non profits, for-profits, large and small
- Cities and Boroughs
- Advocacy organizations
- Senior Centers
- Moms and dads, children and grandparents
- Probably many others

# Who supports human service transportation?



Graph 1: Illustration (only) of how coordination can leverage multiple related efforts.

# Coordination is:

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- The efficient and effective use of local, state and federal transportation resources,
- Working together across sectors to broaden transportation options, and
- Ensuring the connectivity between them.

# Coordination is

- For the populations in question...

“their highway”



# CTTF Members

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Representative of Low Income Individuals

**Patricia Branson**

Representative of Senior Citizens

**Camille Ferguson**

Representative of Transportation Providers  
that Receive Federal Funding Available to  
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*Juneau – Capital Transit Tour*

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# Ex officios

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**Marcia Hoffman-Devoe, LSCW**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
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U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Alaska Area  
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# Administrative Order 243 Tasks

1. Identify state, federal, and local government agencies and private entities ;
2. Identify barriers to coordination;
3. Recommend the removal of barriers;
4. Propose changes in statutes or regulations;
5. Develop mechanisms and incentives to coordination;
6. Identify available financing;
7. Develop a mechanism to ensure that services for persons with special needs in this state are coordinated and services are evaluated.



*At work in Anchorage*

# Process

- Completed all seven tasks
- Conducted five face-to-face meetings
  - Juneau, Anchorage, Bethel, Anchorage, Fairbanks
- Held six webinars / teleconferences
- Shared resource information
- Conducted public comment period

*Alaskans participate in CTTF processes*



# Recommendations

The CTTF recommends that the State of Alaska:

1. Enact a statute to **institutionalize and require coordination** of community-based transportation services that utilize state and federal grant funding.
2. Make **specific state funds available to support operational expenses** for human-service public transportation projects and providers (which in turn can be identified as match for additional federal funds) during its annual appropriation process.
3. Enrich and enhance the human-service public transportation coordination planning processes by **revising and updating coordination planning guidance** documents and **providing increased technical assistance**.
4. **Fund and conduct a statewide needs assessment** of Alaskans with special needs to clearly identify the scope of the transportation need.



# Recommendations

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Other draft recommendations of an operational level have been proposed by the group and are being maintained as draft, pursuant to more study and public involvement.

# CTTF observations

Recommendations are consistent with and support initiatives and priorities of the

- Alaska State Plan for Senior Services 2008-2011
- State Independent Living Council
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Healthy Alaska 2010
- Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 2006 - 2011



# CTTF observations

- Coordination does not result from recommendations alone; rather, coordination results from a cultural change.



# CTTF observations

- An effective service delivery system requires an infrastructure that sustains coordination.



# CTTF observations

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- Alaska's predominantly rural environment makes human service public transportation challenging and absolutely essential to Alaska's quality of life.

# Discussion

